

Skilling: Vulnerable teenage mothers receive start-up kits

NNOYA

By Johnisani Ocakacon

Fifteen teenage mothers in Nwoya district have received sewing machines as start-up kits after completing a one-year tailoring course, giving them a new opportunity for self-reliance and economic stability.

The sewing machines were donated by the Rotary Club of America to support vulnerable young women, many of whom dropped out of school due to early pregnancies and struggled to raise children with limited resources.

“As I was doing this tailoring course, I had already started a small business hub in Gulu city,” said Prisca Nyeko, one of the beneficiaries. I used to hire a sewing machine at a monthly cost of sh10,000 to support my studies and my child. This new sewing machine will help me earn more.”

Nyeko, who also completed a bakery course, said she had already started earning money during school holidays and now hopes to expand.

“I plan to start my own shop and a boutique in the city, where I will employ other girls and train them in both bakery and tailoring so they can also earn a living,” she said.

Alfred Ocaci, the LC1 chairperson of Bigur village in Langol parish, Paminyai sub-county, said many teenage mothers in the area face similar hardships. He explained that vocational training is helping transform lives.

“If these teenage mothers are



Teenage mothers in Nwoya district pose with their new sewing machines donated to as startup kits

empowered with skills, they can be self-reliant, start small businesses that provide daily income,” he said.

He thanked the government for initiating such programmes, adding that skilling has curbed cases of theft and domestic violence among young families.

Alice Lamunu, a member of the Rotary Club of Des Moines and Normandy Park in the US, said the beneficiaries were selected based on vulnerability.

“Our support is meant to help lift them out of household poverty by enabling them to earn income and sustain their families,” Lamunu said.

A Ugandan based in the US and Executive Director of Voices of



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provide vocational skills and tools for income generation.

She added that similar programmes will soon be extended to boys to get them off the streets in the Acholi sub-region.

Holy Moses Ojok, the vice-chairperson of Nwoya district local government, described the support as timely.

“There are many child mothers in the district who need such skills to become self-reliant,” Ojok said.

He said the district is addressing youth unemployment through the Presidential Initiative on Skilling Youth implemented at the Oding Presidential Skilling Hub in Gulu district.

Children’s Faith in northern Uganda, Lamunu, said the initiative aims to